

**MICHIGAN CLANDESTINE
METHAMPHETAMINE LAB
INCIDENTS
P.A. 87 OF 2005
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2006**

In accordance with MCL 333.17766e(6), the Department of State Police is required to report annually to the legislature regarding the impact and effectiveness of the amendatory act that added this section and section 17766f, including, but not limited to the number of clandestine methamphetamine (meth) lab incidents before and after this legislation was enacted.

Background

The synthetic drug amphetamine was the first man-made stimulant drug used in medical treatment. First synthesized in 1887, the drug was not used for medical purposes until the 1920's. It was used as a decongestant and treatment for everything from insomnia to eating disorders. Japanese chemists discovered the water-soluble meth in 1919. This crystalline drug was easier to make than amphetamine and could be injected. Meth kept patients awake for long periods of time. The stimulant property of the drug led to increased use among factory workers and military personnel on all sides of the conflict during World War II. By the end of the war, stockpiled amounts of meth were distributed by the Japanese government to its citizens. This led to widespread abuse and addiction in that country. American military personnel returning from the war were often addicted to meth, as were truck drivers, factory workers, and students. Addicts were acquiring illicit meth produced by Mexican organized criminal organizations and outlaw motorcycle gangs who controlled production on the West Coast. Meth became illegal with the passage of the "U.S. Drug Abuse Regulation and Control Act of 1970." The growth of illegal meth operations in the western U.S. began to spread eastward in the 1950's and continues to this day.

Michigan Perspective

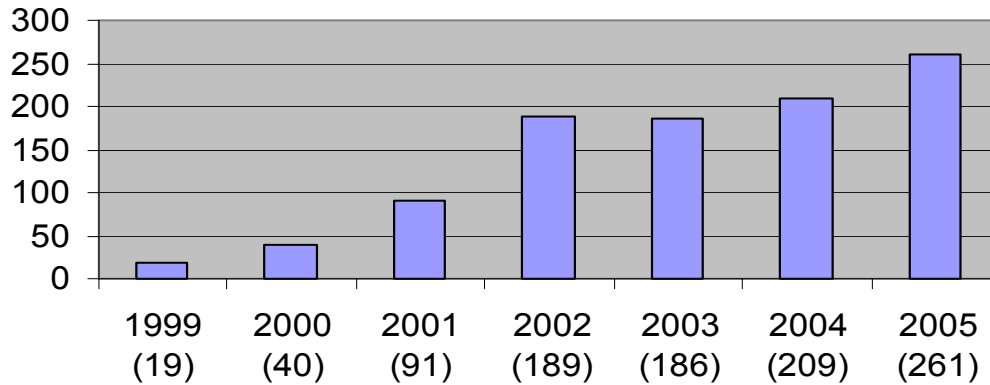
Early experiences with clandestine laboratories in Michigan date back to the methcathinone (Cat) epidemic in the 1980's and 1990's. This drug was developed in Germany in 1928 and was used as an anti-depressant in the Soviet Union in the 1930's and 1940's. It was also a drug of abuse in the Soviet Union in the 1960's. The U.S. drug company Parke Davis began experimenting with cat for medical use in the 1980's but determined that the risks of this drug outweighed any potential health benefits. In 1989, a University of Michigan student, that worked at Parke Davis, found the formula for the drug as well as some samples and began making it at home. By 1992 cat was being trafficked throughout the U.S. Cat was made a Schedule 1 Narcotic that year and cat labs were stopped by aggressive law enforcement efforts in Michigan. Most of the cat labs found were in the Upper Peninsula.

In 1996, Strike Team Investigative Narcotics Group (STING) had its first experience with a meth laboratory. Kalamazoo Valley Enforcement Team (KVET) encountered five labs that same year. Investigations of these cases eliminated the occurrence of meth labs in the southwest Michigan area until 1998, when meth lab contacts began to rise significantly. Previous to 1996, most meth in the state was shipped from California and other western states. Usually outlaw motorcycle gangs controlled the trafficking. The proliferation of Internet meth recipes and the expansion of meth to demographics outside the biker gangs have led to an increase in meth manufacture and use in the state. Evidence of this is seen by the increased use by women, college students, and younger people.

Increase in Meth Lab Seizures

Before this new legislation was enacted in December 2005, Michigan had seen a steady increase in meth lab seizures as shown in the following illustration from the Michigan State Police, West Region Special Investigation Division, Methamphetamine Investigation Team.

Michigan Methamphetamine Lab Seizures Year-to-Year Comparisons

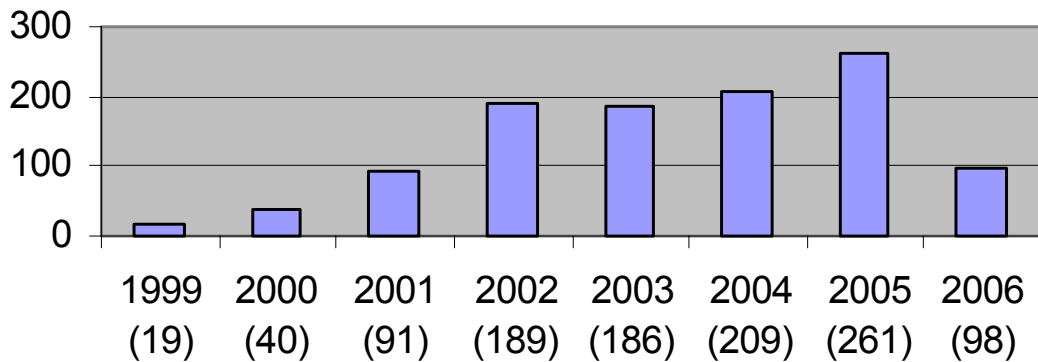


Methamphetamine Lab Reduction

Since the enactment of P.A. 87 Michigan has seen a significant reduction in methamphetamine lab seizures. That means the citizens of Michigan are now much less likely to be exposed to the toxins, fires, and explosions and other methamphetamine lab hazards.

As of mid-November 2006, Michigan has only reported 98 meth lab seizures statewide as shown in the following illustration.

Reduction in Michigan Methamphetamine Lab Seizures

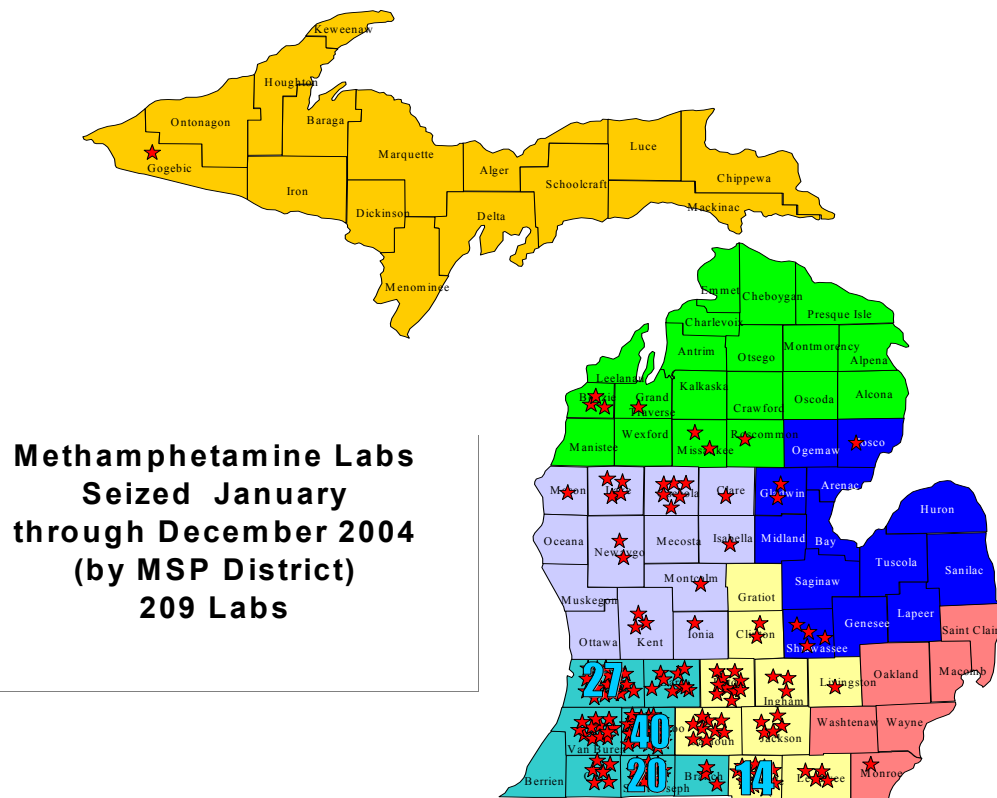


There are other factors that should be considered that may have had an impact in the decline in meth lab seizures in Michigan:

- Local Communities: Several communities started meth task forces which brought attention to meth in their area through awareness training and provided steps in how to deal with the issue.
- Michigan Meth Watch: This retail education program was started in 12 counties in 2005 with funding provided by the Office of Drug Control Policy in Michigan.
- Training: Meth responder training conducted by the Michigan State Police with funding being provided by Michigan High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA). This insures that officers are trained and provided with the necessary equipment to respond and dismantle meth labs.

Because there are many variables, it is impossible to know the exact degree to which P.A. 87 of 2005 is responsible for the drop in meth labs in Michigan. However, all data and other signs point to this legislation as a major reason for the positive change.

Almost all of the counties in Michigan appear to be benefiting from this new legislation. The following three maps provide a county-by-county view of reported meth lab seizures reported in 2004, 2005, and 2006.



The seven regional Michigan State Police forensic laboratories are the sites of all meth sample testing in the state. Evidence is sent to the labs from state, county and local law enforcement agencies and this gives a good indication of the location origin of meth in the state. The forensic laboratories have also seen a decrease in meth samples being submitted. The following table shows the number of meth cases submitted to the Michigan State Police forensic laboratories.

Number of Forensic Laboratory Methamphetamine Cases

Lab	2004 4th Qtr	2005 1 st Qtr	2005 2 nd Qtr	2005 3 rd Qtr	2005 4 th Qtr	2006 1 st Qtr	2006 2nd Qtr	2006 3rd Qtr	2006 4th Qtr*	Totals
Marquette	2	0	1	1	2	0	0	1	2	9
Bridgeport	8	5	9	8	8	7	4	7	24	80
Lansing	73	81	97	81	73	37	31	24	54	551
Grand Rapids	117	165	130	100	117	101	100	65	114	1,009
Sterling Heights	25	20	31	50	25	16	20	23	24	234
Grayling	13	16	22	13	13	12	7	9	7	112
Northville	11	16	11	10	11	12	8	10	13	102
Totals	249	303	301	263	249	185	170	139	238	2,097

*Through September 20, 2006

Federal Outlook

Congress passed the Combat Meth Act of 2005 which was signed into law March 9, 2006, in hopes of stopping the spread of meth labs in other states that had not passed any legislation restricting the sale of ephedrine/pseudoephedrine. This portion of the Combat Meth Act took effect September 30, 2006. On the national level, the White House Office of National Control Policy is reporting a 30 percent decrease in meth lab incidents.

Conclusions

Although, we do not have the data for the full year that P.A. 87 has been in effect, all indications are that the new laws are working in reducing the number of meth labs in Michigan. Other conclusions are:

- The decline in meth labs allows law enforcement agencies to redirect resources to combat the importation of meth coming into Michigan from other states and Mexico.
- We can also conclude with the reduction of meth labs there is a reduced risk of injury to the citizens and children exposed to the hazards of the small toxic labs.
- P.A. 87 has not reduced the supply of imported meth. These laws were not aimed at the imported meth in Michigan. Refocused enforcement efforts are required to address this issue. Along these same lines these laws have not reduced the demand for meth in Michigan. Educational efforts must continue to prevent a new generation of meth users.